

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV. On 20th June 1997, in Washington – America

O ye who believe! Be mindful of Allah and let each of you carefully consider what is sent forth for the morrow. And be mindful of Allah; verily Allah is Well-Aware of what you do.

The Holy Quran. al-Hashr [The Gathering]: 19.

Today with the blessing of Allah the forty-ninth Jalsa Salana America is beginning with this sermon. May Allah the Almighty best reward the financial contributors of the Jamat Ahmadiyya United States as they have arranged for this sermon to be heard all over the world.

Remarkable principles for the moral upbringing of the future generations are contained in the Quranic verses recited at the beginning of the sermon. Proselytising is strengthened by the moral upbringing of those who preach. If those who offer moral training are themselves in need of it then this would create very convoluted issues. There are some things that begin in childhood and it is also important for them to begin from childhood because until the children of the future are not brought up properly nothing can be ascertained for the future. It is important for mothers and fathers to nourish the relationship their children have with them right from their childhood - Moreover to create such families where the children find rest at home. In an American environment it is very easy to acquire bad habits. The American atmosphere is such that it will certainly draw children out of their homes and deprive them of their good habits. So when the children come home from outdoors they should be coming from restlessness into a tranquil home environment. One wisdom behind saying the *Azan* in one ear of the child at birth and the *Takbir* in the other is that it draws the parents' attention towards their upbringing right from childhood. The upbringing of this time lays the foundation for their future lives.

In America you should give special importance to telling the children things that create a love for Allah and the Prophet and for good things. Show others their good deeds so that they realise that people appreciate them. Promote their good acts. Especially to draw their attention to worship from the ages of 7 - 10 is also a part of their upbringing. If after this they do not do it then it should be discouraged them. You have no right to force them after the age of 12. This is the beginning of puberty and a child possesses enough understanding to accept responsibility for their actions.

Moral upbringing should begin from the start and by the age of 12 this upbringing should be so complete that after this the child should be master of their own gain and loss.¹ Then if they commit a crime the Society should punish them and if they commit a crime against God then God would punish them. There are many such girls and boys born into an American society, whose parents feel tormented that they were good, pious, devoted and held a religious affiliation but a complete transformation occurred as soon as they entered the Colleges. I try to explain to them that nothing happens so suddenly. Certain desires must have been suppressed in their hearts which were not allowed to flourish and efforts were not

¹ The Caliph used the term 'black and white'.

made to channel them. It is important for children to have been taught to distinguish between good and bad so that it becomes a part of their lives. They should understand its philosophy. Mere education is not enough. Teaching along with wisdom ties it to the heart in a way that can never be severed from it again.

No admonishment can be effective without patience and the task of Muslims is stated that they always patiently admonish.

It is extremely important to be attached to the good things from childhood and to derive their benefit in one's daily life. A relish for the good would not come from just telling them [about it]. A relish for the good would come through making them do it.

The second thing which it is important to explain is to create self-esteem. Children should know that *Your character would be good only when you have the courage to do the things you know are good.* Confidence in what is good is very important and generations are destroyed as a result of neglecting this confidence. So tell your children that your respect and high values are in [your] good deeds. If there is a feeling of dejection in doing well then that good act can never last. Most of the problem is due to their not being made self-confident in doing well at home. You should walk with heads held high for your higher values and never care a jot as to how people see you.

It is the job of parents to enjoy what is good and to teach how to enjoy the good. One cannot be attached to good without enjoyment. It is important to teach the philosophy of worship right from childhood. The philosophy of God's love must be included in the philosophy of worship because without it worship is meaningless. So it is also important to inculcate love for the person who teaches to do well - And in this the foremost of humankind is Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم the Holy Messenger of Allah.

Never consider certain small things to be minor. Amulets around the neck, earrings, long hair, strange and weird Fashions, these are things that enslave [a person]. A slave has no self-respect. Never be followers of Fashion, be the creators of Fashion. Be the person followed by others.

It should be your task to create defensiveness in your children so that Society would not dare to change them. Yes they should be the ones to change the Society. We will change exactly as one Muhammad the Messenger of Allah changed the whole world. It is that same spiritual power that gave birth to the Promised Messiah. It is the same spiritual power which created tiny small lovers of good actions in every place. He had created that transformation in himself that was to change society. So give birth to such people among your children.

Finality is a seal which should be born in every servant of Muhammad the Messenger of Allah. It is a seal which should influence others. Every person who creates a change for the good in any other has the status of being a seal. Protect your children with in mind; make them into small minor *Seals* who inculcate the qualities of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم in others. You should yourselves be the seal which is not under the influence of the ungodly. You are to make an imprint of the Holy Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم seal of Prophethood in yourselves and to pass it on.

May Allah enable the Jamat to see eye to eye with the new increasing needs of preaching. They should try to fulfil it not as a duty but with heartfelt attachment. To change America is a massive change and if we fail in it then nobody would be able to bring it about. Today the servants of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) have been appointed to create a change for a better world. I swear by God that if you create the imprints in yourselves that are the imprints of Muhammad the Messenger of Allah then billions would be saved through you.

In the end I report that Mr. Atiq Ahmad of Bajwa who was the Amir of Diharri was martyred by some unknown attackers on 19th June. He was a very devoted and fervent summoner to Allah. He had many qualities. Similarly Rasheed Ahmad Zirvi who was a life devotee has passed away in Rabwah.

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